



Your Energy Connection

Rocky Mount Public Utilities



What is Beat the Peak ? What is Load Management?

Every month on the back side of this newsletter, there is a segment inviting residential customers to take part in the City of Rocky Mount's load management program called Beat the Peak.

Unless you are already familiar with the program, there are many questions a customer may have before taking part in the program and reaping the rewards.

What is Load Management?

Load management is the process of reducing electric load from our electric system during periods of peak demand. Managing the peak is an excellent way to conserve natural resources and to help to control electric costs in the long run. The city reduces the electric load by remotely turning off your large appliances such as your air conditioning system, water heater, and heat strips on a heat pump, for certain amounts of time with load management switches. Typically, this happens on hot summer afternoons and cold winter mornings.

Will I Be Inconvenienced?

No. Turning off the appliance should not affect your comfort level in most cases.

Water heaters are designed to keep water hot for several hours after the power is turned off.

For heat pumps in heating mode, the city will turn off only the auxiliary heat strips. The heat pump compressor will not be affected. The compressor is the most efficient means of heat within the heat pump and will continue to heat your home during load management periods.

The air conditioning electric load is managed at 100 percent during three summer months. Under 100 percent control, the air conditioner's compressor is turned off for the duration of every load management period. The fan will continue to circulate the cool air in your home. While this option may not be for everyone, it is a great alternative to high bills for some customers.

Are Appliances Controlled Every Day?

No. Load management takes place only a few days a month, and on the days when it does take place, the city usually controls your appliances for only a few hours. The aim of load management is to reduce usage during the one hour of the month when our wholesale electric system is reaching its peak for the month.

Generally, peaks occur between 7 am and 9 am on winter weekdays, and between 2 pm and 6 pm on summer weekdays.

Do I Have to Pay to Have the Switches Installed?

No. The city will install the switches free of charge. The customer is only obligated to be at home and available when the switches are installed and when switches are tested if the switches are inside the home.

How Will I Know the Switches are Working?

A qualified city employee will routinely test the load management switches in the field on a maintenance schedule. You will be contacted when your switches will be tested if it is necessary for you to be present.

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time.

By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control.

Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing.

There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available.

Customers receive \$2.00 credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat.

Customers receive \$15.00 credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control

Customers receive \$20.00 credit each month for three months during the summer months. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period.

Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

Call 972-1284 for more information.



Energy Conservation Tips

- Keep your thermostat set on 68 degrees or lower for efficiency during the heating season and 78 degrees in the summer to reduce utility costs
- Caulk around all windows
- Weather-strip doors and windows
- Install door sweeps
- Use an expanding insulated foam such as *Great Stuff* to fill in around pipe entrances to act as an insulator
- Put on additional clothing instead of turning up the thermostat
- Install a water heater timer on an electric water heater
- Install a water heater jacket if the electric water heater is in an unconditioned space such as a garage, outside storage building, under the house, or in the attic
- Contact your local contractor for advice on how to check your insulation levels; if needed, add to the level of insulation in your attic and crawl space
- Use outlet and switch plate foam insulators
- Keep fireplace dampers closed
- Replace incandescent bulbs and fixtures with compact or standard fluorescent lamps
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed and do not block them with furniture, carpeting, or drapes

972,
RMPU
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Call
**Rocky Mount Public Utilities
(RMPU) for all your
Energy Services**

For more information about Rocky Mount Public Utilities
see our website at: utilities.rockymountnc.gov

